Closure of vaccine manufacturing PSUs

1575. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken a decision to revoke its earlier decision to shutdown three vaccine factories;

(b) if so, what are the steps taken by Government to fulfil the commitment to give universal free vaccination to all children in the country; and

(c) whether there is any decrease in the number of children who have been vaccinated during the period of closure of these factories?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The manufacturing licenses of the three Vaccine Institutes namely, the Central Research Institute, Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh, the Pasteur Institute of India, Coonoor, Tamil Nadu and the BCG Vaccine Laboratory,Chennai, Tamil Nadu, which are under the administrative control of the Ministry were suspended by the Drugs Controller General of India DCG (I) in January 2008 since they were not found in compliance with the Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) as provided under Schedule M of Drugs and Cosmetic Rules, 1945. Government has decided to revive these units. The licences of these units can be revived and the production of vaccines can be restarted after compliance with GMP requirements.

(b) Vaccine procurement for National Immunisation Programme is being carried out from other Public Sector Units (PSUs) and indigenous private Sector units.

(c) As per the provisional data available, there is a decrease in the number of children vaccinated during the year 2008 as compared to the year 2007.

Unsatisfactory functioning of CGHS dispensaries

1576. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the functioning of C.G.H.S. dispensaries in the far off areas of Delhi is far from satisfactory as there is hardly any proper supervision of their functioning by senior officers of the Ministry; and

(b) if so, what steps Government proposes to take to ensure their proper working with periodical supervision by senior level officers of the Ministry to improve their functioning?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) No such report has been received in the CGHS.

Regular and surprise inspections are carried out by the Additional Director of the Zone; by Director (Admn. & Vigilance), Dte.G.H.S.; Vigilance Officer, CGHS(HQ), etc.